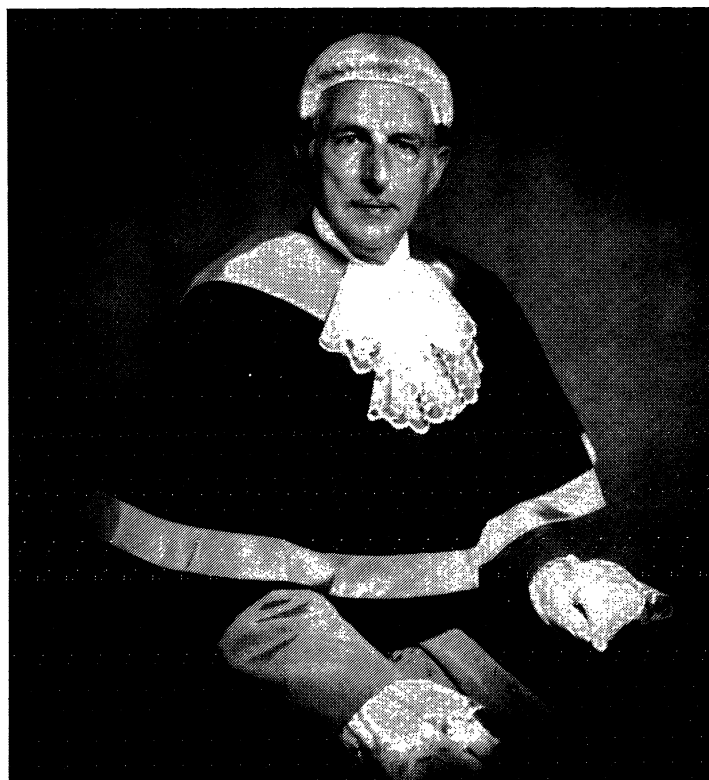


# WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT... AT LAST!



*His Honour Judge R.W. Grubb  
National President  
Australian Crime Prevention Council*

I am writing to assure you that Roy Grubb is alive and well and is still living, in Adelaide. I am not a myth. I do exist. I have a very real concern and commitment to do all I can to further the interests of Australian Crime Prevention Council. For varied, but very valid reasons, I have not, before now, been able to address the members of the Council and many other concerned people, through the medium of this excellent Journal.

I sincerely regret I was unable to attend the very successful Tenth Biennial Conference of the Council at Hobart in August 1979. At the Meeting which followed, I was declared elected as Council President for the next biennial period. I was prevented from attending that Conference Meeting because of a criminal trial in which I was presiding, which started on 5 May and ended on 28 September 1979, when I sentenced the prisoner (a Medical Practitioner who appeared in person), following the verdict of Guilty brought in by the Jury on forty of the fifty five counts of alleged Medibank frauds.

Since then, I have attended a Meeting of the Management Committee held at the Secretariat on 24 November 1979. I was delighted then to meet Senior Vice President, Frank Hayes, Vice President, Peter Johnson, Honorary Secretary, Mendy Campbell and our indefatigable Executive Director and Editor of "Forum", John Purcell. I am grateful to them all for all they did (and have done and are doing) to assist me and to impart to me some understanding of my role as President of the Council.

I here pause to pay a very sincere tribute to my predecessor Mr. Justice Muirhead of the Northern Territory Supreme

Court who, during the many years he was President of the Council, has done more than most, not only to ensure its survival through some difficult times, but also to ensure that the Council took positive steps to assume the role required of it by its founders. I am sure you will all agree that, as a Council, we owe a great deal to the courtesy, patience and the drive of Jim Muirhead. As a Council, our regret is that increasing pressures of work and distance forced upon him the decision not to seek re-election as President last August. We wish him well for the future and thank him for all he did, as President.

For myself, I am looking forward to meeting the National Executive in Melbourne on 19-20 April next. In the meantime, there is much to be done by the Council — and that really means, by the State Branches. The most urgent task facing us is substantially to increase the membership of the Council, so that it becomes what it should be — a broadly based and representative body, spread throughout the whole of Australia, which will show the community, and Governments, what can and should be done to prevent crime. Essentially, membership is in the hands of the Branches. Get moving all of you, please.

I have the impression that we may have been a little too concerned, in the past, with crime and the criminal, forgetting an important third party. As a Council, we do not seem to have expressed any great concern for the victims of crime. I realise, of course, that when that halcyon day dawns when crime has gone, there will be no victims; but until that day comes, I am sure all will agree that we must press on, step

by step, slowly but surely, to advance measures which will reduce the incidence of crime (and here, no one could argue that it is other than essential to prevent recidivism). I think, however, that in its concern to prevent crime and recidivism this Council should, like the law, be even-handed – we should publicly express our concern for the victims of crime. I am delighted, therefore, to learn that this question will be raised by the South Australian Branch at the National Executive Meeting. I look forward to the debate with keen interest.

Those of you who have not met me and know little, if anything about me, may welcome some personal history. I was born in North Adelaide (where I now live) on 13 March 1917. All my earlier education was in country schools. I commenced my studies in the Faculty of Law in the University of Adelaide in 1938. From June 1940 to January 1946 I served in 2/48 Aust Inf Bn and HQs 9 and 6 Aus Div and saw service in the Middle East (Tobruk and El Alamein) and Papua-New Guinea. I was admitted a Practitioner of the Supreme Court of South Australia on 20 December 1948. I was in private practice until appointed a Stipendiary Magistrate in March 1964. For five years I was the Magistrate-in-Charge (that really means the lone Magistrate) in the North and Far North of this State where I pioneered and initiated summary hearings in remote places, like Coober Pedy and Andamooka Opal Field. I was the first Magistrate in this State to hold summary sittings in the Amata Reserve and to take the advice of the Pitjantjatjara Elders as to penalties following convictions after hearings held in the presence of the communities at Amata and Ernabella.

In 1969 I was transferred to the Local Court (Civil) in Adelaide. On 12 April 1973 I was appointed Deputy Chairman of the then three member Bench of the Liquor Licencing Court. In June 1976 I was appointed an Acting Judge of the Local & District Criminal Court and was commissioned to conduct an inquiry into the Prison system in Tasmania. On 2 December 1976, following the dramatic restructuring of the

Licensing Court (from being essentially a troika it was turned, by legislative legerdemain, into a one man band) I was appointed the first Licensing Court Judge in South Australia. My acting appointment in the District Court continued until July 1979 when I was appointed a Judge of that Court. I have had substantial experience in the criminal law at the summary (many would say, the Grass Roots) level. I have had regular experience since 1976 in the criminal law in the District Court (last year's marathon holds the record as the longest criminal trial in South Australia – I summed up and directed the Jury for two days and two hours and still have a sense of satisfaction in that, although the man was convicted on forty of the counts and was sent to gaol, there was no appeal!) I have been married since April 1945. Joy and I have one child, a daughter. We have (with her essential aid, and that of her husband) two grandsons, aged 8½ and 4½ years. In setting all this down I am not crowing (even assuming a grubb may crow!) I set it down for background information only. As Members of the Council, you will, of course, judge me as you find me. I promise I will do all I can to further the cause and the interests of the Australian Crime Prevention Council, about which I have so much to learn. I trust I may rely upon your goodwill and help.

An important last few words. I express our gratitude to the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust for so freely giving its permission for the publication of the Report, to that Trust, presented by 1979 Churchill Fellow, Detective Inspector R.J. Redmond, Chief of the Q'ld Police Department Homicide Squad. Further, our most grateful thanks to Ron Redmond himself for agreeing that we may reprint his Report in this issue of "Forum". As well as being a senior and highly respected member of the Q'ld Police Department, Ron Redmond is also (inter alia) the very efficient, hard-working and devoted Honorary Secretary of the flourishing Queensland Branch of Australian Crime Prevention Council.

Roy Grubb

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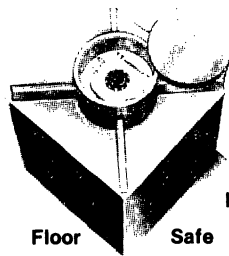
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